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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Leather Department of the Ministry of Light Industry controls the manufacture of all leather, fur, and rubber goods. It is responsible for supplying factories with raw materials, for selling their products, for investments and all other financial matters. 25X1

2. The Leather Department is located at Strada Dumbrava Rosie No. 12, Bucharest. Its staff consists of a manager, an assistant manager, 10 section heads, and 128 technical and administrative employees.

3. The following factories have production facilities for shoes, tanning, and sole leather:

- Ianos Herbak (formerly Dermata), Cluj: 4,300 employees; 6,700 pairs of shoes daily, of which 2,000 are military boots; 20 tons of rawhide processed daily, yielding 12 tons of leather and soles.
- Partizanul, Bacau: 800 employees; 1,200 pairs of boots daily, of which 960 are for the army; 10 tons of rawhide processed daily.
- Straduinta, Itcani: 550 employees; 1,200 pairs of army boots (double soles) daily; one ton of rawhide processed daily.
- Record (formerly Karres), Medias: 1,000 employees; 800 pairs of shoes daily; 20 tons of rawhide processed daily.
- Tabacaria Nationala, Strada Verzisori, Bucharest: 1,500 employees; 2,000 pairs of shoes daily; 50 tons of rawhide processed daily.
- Talpa, Bucharest: 800 employees; 1,200 pairs of shoes daily, of which 900 are for the army; 20 tons of rawhide processed daily.
- Flacara Rosie, (formerly Mociornita), Bucharest: 1,300 employees; 2,400

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pairs of shoes daily, of which 1,800 are for the army; 10 tons of rawhide processed daily. The small production of the tannery is the result of a fire in November 1951 which destroyed about 65 percent of the mineral tanning facilities.

4. The following factories have production facilities for shoes only:

- a. Prima Banateana, Timisoara: 1,200 employees; 2,400 pairs of rubber shoes daily, of which 800 are for the army.
- b. Solidaritatea (formerly Carmen), Oradea: 900 employees; 2,000 pairs of shoes daily.
- c. Dobrogeanu-Gherea, Oradea: 500 employees, 1,200 pairs of shoes daily.
- d. Drata, Bucharest: 400 employees; 1,200 pairs of shoes and workers' boots daily.
- e. Stefan Plavatz (formerly Filt), Timisoara: 500 employees; 1,200 pairs of good quality shoes daily.

5. The following factories have production facilities for tanning:

- a. I. R. P. (Industria Romana de Piele - Rumanian Leather Industry), Timisoara: 300 employees; five to six tons of rawhide processed daily.
- b. Mioara, Oradea: number of employees not known; 150 tons of rawhide processed monthly.
- c. 13 Decembrie, Sibiu: 300 to 400 employees; 150 tons of rawhide processed monthly.
- d. Stalin (Brasov), name of factory not known: 500 employees; 10 tons of rawhide processed daily.
- e. Ploesti, name of factory not known: tans lambskin, goatskin, and makes split leather for linings.

6. The following factories have production facilities for gloves:

- a. Prima Timisoareana, Timisoara: 300 workers; 250,000 pairs of gloves yearly.
- b. Monopol, Targu Mures: number of workers not known; 2,000 kilograms of glove leather daily for the Prima Timisoareana factory.

7. The leather production plan was exceeded by one percent in 1951, when a total of 7,500,000 pairs of shoes and boots were made. However, the production was poor in quality. The production plan for military shoes and boots is worked out by a special department and kept secret.

- 8. The Five Year Plan called for the production of 22 million pairs of shoes and boots in the final year, after existing factories had been expanded. This part of the Plan was abandoned in 1952 because of a decrease from 1,200 million lei to 400 million lei in planned investments in leather and shoe factories.
- 9. On 31 December 1950 a special commission decided that 1,500 million lei would be invested for replacement of machinery in tanneries and 2,500 million lei for replacement of machinery in shoe factories.

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10. Not more than 10,000 tons of rawhide can be collected yearly in Rumania because of large exports of cattle, principally to Poland. The remaining necessary rawhide is imported from the Argentine.
11. In 1950-1951 the Ministry of Light Industry placed 50,000 pairs of boots at the disposal of the Ministry of Foreign Trade for export to the USSR. This resulted in the placement of an additional order, and delivery terms were so short that production had to be accelerated. A large proportion of boots were returned after three months use as unsatisfactory, although only the best leather had been used for soles. The Minister of Foreign Trade Alexandru Barladeanu, visited Moscow in this connection and became involved in a serious dispute over the unsatisfactory quality of the boots.
12. The technical department of the Ministry of Light Industry has exact specifications, including photographs, of both buildings and equipment for factories under its control.
13. Because the Ministry of Light Industry considered that structural plans for its enterprises were not satisfactorily prepared by the various planning institutes, it established its own drafting section. The former Cehoslovaca factory on Strada Buzesti and the former head office of Letea on Strada Matei Millo were taken for this section, which has 350 permanently employed designers and 450 employees.
14. A type of synthetic leather was developed by an engineer Ghilcoias and is produced at the Uzinele Chimice Romane, Bucharest. A layer of rubber composition is spread over a canvas backing; the resulting product is thick, elastic, and looks like bison or chrome box leather. It is used as upper leather only and is reported to be satisfactory. Approximately 50,000 pairs of boots with synthetic uppers have been ordered from several factories for further testing.
15. The following personalities of the Ministry of Light Industry are known: 25X1

a. Ghilcoias (fnu), engineer in the research institute of the Ministry of Light Industry and inventor of the "synthetic leather" [redacted]

b. Ion Ene, assistant head of the Leather Department [redacted]

c. Schifter (fnu), head of the technical section [redacted]

d. Alexandru Sencovici, Minister of Light Industry [redacted]

e. Velcescu (fnu), head of the Leather Department [redacted]

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